



# **Nevada Department of Agriculture**

## **Director, Don Henderson**

### **Activities & Achievement Report**

#### **May, 2005**

#### **Administration**

- Administrative staff attended budget closings on April 27, and Don Henderson provided testimony to the joint sub-committee on several topics. Agriculture's budgets closed without controversy, and were later closed without adjustment in the Senate and the Assembly.
- The final version of the Department's Technical Strategy document was delivered by Wanda Cox from the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) on April 25<sup>th</sup>. This document is the culmination of many months of effort between DoIT and the Department to identify strategies and principles to address long term business needs and initiatives.
- Don Henderson signed a purchase and sale agreement for the GSL Building in Elko. This building will replace the current Elko Office, which is located on the Great Basin Community College campus. Purchase and retrofit of the GSL Building is expected to save the State of Nevada over \$2.3 million dollars compared to the cost of new building, which was expected to cost \$4.3 million dollars. The Division of State Lands, State Public Works Board, and the Nevada Legislature have all worked together on this pending purchase.

#### **Veterinary Science**

- On April 6th Dr. Keith Forbes attended the Clark County Fair in Logandale and inspected/educated sheep and goat participants about Scrapie disease and identification requirements. On April 16th Dr. Forbes attended the Douglas county/ Carson City Nevada Junior Livestock Show pre-qualifying show and inspected sheep and goats for proper Scrapie identification. On April 22 Dr. Forbes gave several presentations at Eagle Valley Middle School in Carson City concerning careers in

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veterinary medicine. During the Nevada Junior Livestock Show on April 28th he inspected sheep and goats for proper identification and gave a short presentation to the participants covering the clinical presentation of Scrapie in sheep and goats; he also introduced the Nevada Scrapie program.

- On April 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> USDA APHIS Veterinary Science personnel gave a short training course in GIS mapping in Reno. In addition to several participants from California Drs. Keith Forbes, Dan Crowell and Anette Rink attended from NDOA, Dr. Katie Blunk, Nevada's federal Veterinary Medical Officer also attended the workshop. On April 28<sup>th</sup> Drs. Dan Crowell and Anette Rink held a WNV workshop in Fallon in collaboration with Nancy Upham from Churchill County Mosquito and Weed Abatement District. The purpose of this workshop was to introduce personnel from local mosquito abatement agencies, park rangers, NDOW and US Fish and Wildlife personnel to correct West Nile Virus sampling techniques. The Nevada Department of Agriculture relies almost exclusively on other agencies to provide samples from dead birds for WNV surveillance.
- On April 13<sup>th</sup> Dr. Anette Rink gave a lecture on BSE to the freshmen class of UNR's Biochemistry program.

### **Plant Industry**

#### **Agricultural Enforcement Unit**

- This month compliance was found in all of the inspections and no citations were issued.

#### **Pest Control Operators**

- Shirlene Wayland and Tom Smigel continue to review and update the pest control industrial and institutional operator exams. Completed exam packets will be provided to all NDOA offices.
- Scott Cichowlaz initiated an investigation into un-licensed activities of a past licensed pest control company / operator. Information on pesticide purchases was voluntarily (thru inspection) provided by a pesticide dealership to assist in the investigation of this un-licensed individual.
- Greg Hyman submitted four cases to Reno for enforcement for violations of pre-construction treatment regulations. Two of the cases involved multiple serious and repeat violations. Compliance with the regulations for pre-construction treatments continue to be a major problem and enforcement is pending against several pest control companies.
- Lee Lawrence assessed nearly \$9000.00 in fines to pest control companies related to violations ranging from lack of insurance to expired licenses.

#### **EPA**

- Scott Cichowlaz conducted two intensive pesticide producing establishment inspections. One inspection turned out to be routine; the other turned out to be not so routine with numerous potential EPA violations noted during the inspection. A report of the inspections were forwarded to Charles Moses for review and forwarding to EPA for enforcement action.

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- One pesticide dealership was inspected and a RUP record audit conducted. No apparent violations were noted in the inspection.
- One pesticide spill was reported to the NDOA by NDEP during the month. Scott Cichowlaz investigated the complaint and interviewed both the incident reporter / complainant (a homeowner) and the respondent (a commercial pest control company). After the interviews were completed, Scott concluded that no spillage of pesticides had actually occurred.
- Scott Cichowlaz administered one certification exam on a emergency bases for SUNCO tomato greenhouse in Las Vegas. The operator of the greenhouse requested an emergency examination of one of his employees so they could buy a needed RUP to control an outbreak of pests on the tomatoes. The individual passed the examination and was issued a copy of the examination record to show that they could purchase and use the RUP legally.

### Nursery

- Marv Berson completed 14 nursery inspections and 71 truck inspections. He also issued a phytosanitary certificate for the export of plants to California.
- One nursery inspection at a local nursery resulted in the discovery of Psyllids. As the nursery did not remove the stock in a timely fashion, the nursery was issued a warning letter by the Nursery Program Coordinator; Peggy McKie. A load of **Callistemon** was rejected due to a heavy infestation of mealybugs.
- Marc Olson inspected 3 nurseries, performed one truck inspection, and completed two EPA market place inspections. A sample pesticide obtained by a market place inspection conducted by Marc Olson was found to be deficient with respect to claim. This case has been forwarded to EPA for further evaluation.
- Xenia Duranovic inspected 33 trucks this month and they were all in compliance in respect to various quarantine requirements. Xenia inspected 4 nurseries and collected a sample from a pine tree infested with scales. The sample was sent to the state entomologist Jeff Knight who identified it as **Irregular pine scale**. He also recommended the treatment for this pest.
- Another local nursery was found with some minor violations that were corrected within 2 days.
- Xenia also issued 2 phytosanitary certificates for the shipments of plant material to Arizona.
- Also one market producer certificate was issued this month and one Smuggling Interdiction Trade Compliance inspection was conducted in which compliance was found on all meats and foods.

### Other Items of Interest

- A booth at the Clark county fair was manned for four days by Marc Olson, Dave Walch, Marie Virkus, Marv Berson, Paul Frigo, Larry Johnson, Ed Miller, and Les Smith. A crowd of 80,000 to 100,000 people was estimated to have attended the fair.
- Marc Olson traveled to Winnemucca to help with the aerial spraying and ground baiting for the infestation of Mormon crickets. It is estimated that 12 million acres are infested with these crickets in Nevada.
- Both Shirlene Wayland and Tom Smigel were each interviewed on current insect problems of interest in the Las Vegas area by Channel 8 News this month. The news

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reports were well done and we received positive comments on the presentations from the viewing public.

- Marv represented the NDOA at a Cooperative Weed Management Association meeting in Alamo on April 1.
- Richard Modee started work on April 25, 2005 in the position of Agriculturist II. Richard will chair and facilitate the first Weeds Working Group of the Clark County Desert Conservation Plan this month.
- A meeting agenda has been circulated in preparation for the first Weeds Working Group of the Clark County Desert Conservation Plan.
- Scott Cichowlaz set up several new WINXP based computers, surplused the WIN95 computers and worked with DoIT on setting up network based printers and a networked based copy machine.
- On two occasions, for two different pest control companies, Lee Lawrence suspended structural pest control categories for failing to maintain a principal licensee for their businesses.
- Lee issued a cease and desist order to a pest control company with expired insurance.
- Lee wrote a letter clarifying the Department's position on the matter of issuing pest control names which may include terms for which the company has no license. (i.e. XYZ Termite & Pest Control. XYZ has no termite license, therefore the "termite" portion of their name is an advertisement for a category for which they have no license and cannot be used = XYZ ~~Termite~~ & Pest Control.)
- Lee has been working with Washoe County Health Department to educate and prepare the pest control industry in Northern Nevada for Tick Bourn Relapsing Fever. Information about the disease is to be released to the public soon.
- Lee organized and participated in the 2005 Spring Home & Garden Show, April 8, 9 and 10.

### **Measurement Standards**

- Administrator is tracking legislation concerning agency and attending hearings.
- Employee appreciation barbeque was well attended and successful
- Administrator attended the air quality meeting for the gas pollution account.

### **Bureau of Weights and Measures**

- The Sparks Metrology Lab is back in service from the remodel construction.
- Statewide device inspections are on schedule.

## **ACTIVITY FOR APRIL**

Program	Number checked	Number of failures
Device Inspection	1759	68
Fuel Sampled	84	3
Consumer Complaints	10	0

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### **Bureau of Petroleum Technology**

- Construction of the petroleum lab in Sparks is complete. Petroleum Laboratory equipment and staff are moved in and most equipment is operational.

### **Wildlife Services**

- District Supervisor (DS) Kevin Lansford completed his week long Junior Achievement Program at the Ely Elementary School. The program not only introduces the fourth grade students to the Wildlife Services (WS) Program but teaches them about natural resources, what they are, where they come from and how they are used in an economy. DS Lansford contributes his time to the program yearly.
- Beginning April 6th and running through April 10th, Wildlife Biologist (WB) Joe Caudell set up and operated a Wildlife Services display at the Clark County Fair. The display was included as part of the County's Desert Conservation Program, of which WS is a contractor. WB Caudell reports over 20,000 people a day were in attendance over the four day event.
- During the week of April 25th thru April 29th, a livestock producer from Washoe County reported that 35 sheep (valued at \$3,500) from two different lambing areas had been killed by mountain lions. Mt. Lion Specialist (MLS) Tom Kilby inspected the livestock damage and confirmed that the damage was caused by mt. lions. On April 26th, MLS Kilby removed one seven year old female mt. lion. MLS Kilby is and will be pursuing the other offending mountain lion.
- State Director Mark Jensen and District Supervisor Kevin Lansford will travel to Portland Oregon the week of May 9-13 for National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) training. The training is pertinent to all aspects of the Wildlife Services program. The training allows the Nevada Animal Damage Control Program to continue to comply with NEPA so the program can continue to provide valuable services to our cooperators in Nevada.

### **Livestock I.D. & Agricultural Enforcement Division**

- Jim Connelley, made several trips to the Legislature to work on and testify on various bills including AB 181 & 407.
- Jim Connelley held a yearly Livestock Assessment (Head Tax) meeting with representatives from the Native American tribes in the state. The Tribes were represented by counsel and Senior Deputy Attorney General, Gina Session, for NDOA, was also present. The discussion revolved around the services rendered to the Tribes, the collection of the Head Tax on reservations, and sovereignty issues.
- Agriculture Enforcement Lieutenant, Chris Collis, worked a court ordered impound of cattle involved in litigation in the Wells area.
- Ag Enforcement Statistics for the month of March are:
  - 144 vehicles stopped
  - 3 warning citations written, all plant industry related.
  - 7 court citations written, 4 for brands violations, 3 for plant industry violations.
  - 4 verbal warnings given.

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